

Applic. No.: 10/706,823

Amdt. Dated June 28, 2005

Reply to Office action of April 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 remain in the application.

~~In item 3 on pages 2-5 of the above-mentioned Office action,~~
claims 1-6 and 8 have been rejected as being anticipated by
Martter et al. (US 6,137,072) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In item 5 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action,
claim 7 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Martter
et al. in view of Yamada et al. (US 2002/0052913 A1) under 35
U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims
were patentable over the cited art in their original form and
the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the
references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that
a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

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a control circuit being a functional unit having at least one component selected from the group consisting of operating elements, control elements, switching elements, and display elements, said control circuit having a circuit front side.

An important difference between the invention of the instant application and Martter et al. is that in the invention of the instant application the control circuit (14) is in the form of a functional unit. In contrast, Martter et al. disclose in column 4, lines 55-57 that the inner panel 35 and the outer panel 12 are separately held in position and alignment within the control section 15 by metal clips 36. This kind of structure is not a functional unit (module) in the sense of the invention of the instant application (see, for example, page 5, line 14 to page 6, line 2; page 9, lines 3-9; and page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 15 of the specification).

Clearly, Martter et al. do not show "a control circuit being a functional unit having at least one component selected from the group consisting of operating elements, control elements, switching elements, and display elements, said control circuit having a circuit front side," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Martter et al. and since all of the dependent claims (including claim

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7 rejected in item 5 of the Office action) are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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